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(Original Signature of Member)

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. SKELTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To express the sense of Congress concerning the fiscal year  
2003 end strengths needed for the Armed Forces to  
fight the War on Terrorism.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. FINDINGS CONCERNING FISCAL YEAR 2003 END**  
4               **STRENGTHS NEEDED FOR THE ARMED**  
5               **FORCES TO FIGHT THE WAR ON TERRORISM.**

6       Congress makes the following findings:



1           (1) Before September 11, 2001, the uniformed  
2 chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine  
3 Corps testified before the Committee on Armed  
4 Services of the House of Representatives that they  
5 did not have sufficient personnel to meet all their  
6 current operational requirements.

7           (2) Since September 11, 2001, Admiral Dennis  
8 Blair, then-commander of the United States Pacific  
9 Command, General Joseph Ralston, commander of  
10 the United States European Command, and General  
11 William Kernan, commander of United States Joint  
12 Forces Command, have testified before that com-  
13 mittee that United States military forces are being  
14 stressed by the increased operational tempo and  
15 have insufficient forces to fully meet their war-fight-  
16 ing requirements and to fully execute all assigned  
17 missions and that further strains on the Armed  
18 Forces may be anticipated.

19           (3) Following the terrorist attacks against the  
20 United States on September 11, 2001, Congress  
21 adopted a joint resolution (Public Law 107-40) au-  
22 thorizing the President to use all necessary and ap-  
23 propriate force against those nations, organizations,  
24 and persons he determines planned, authorized, com-



1       mitted, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred  
2       on September 11, 2001.

3           (4) Since the adoption of that resolution,  
4       United States Armed Forces have been actively wag-  
5       ing war against terrorists and terrorism around the  
6       globe in operations known as Operation Noble Eagle  
7       and Operation Enduring Freedom.

8           (5) In the prosecution of the war against ter-  
9       rorism, thousands of active-duty servicemembers and  
10      over 80,000 reservists and National Guard members  
11      have participated in Operations Noble Eagle and  
12      Enduring Freedom.

13          (6) President Bush has publicly stated numer-  
14      ous times that the war on terrorism will continue for  
15      some time.

16          (7) United States forces are currently searching  
17      for terrorists in Afghanistan, helping fight terrorism  
18      in the Philippines, training military forces in the Re-  
19      public of Georgia, equipping and training govern-  
20      ment forces in Columbia, and aiding the peace proc-  
21      ess in the Balkans and Kosovo.

22          (8) The pace of operations for United States  
23      military personnel has only increased since Sep-  
24      tember 11, 2001, and that pace increases the strain  
25      on servicemembers and their families.



1           (9) Prosecuting the war on terrorism will re-  
2       quire increased expenditures for military personnel,  
3       operations and maintenance, and for the procure-  
4       ment of equipment that is lost, expended or con-  
5       sumed.

6           (10) In response to the increased missions for  
7       military personnel associated with the prosecution of  
8       the war on terrorism, the House of Representatives  
9       and the Senate, in their respective versions of the  
10      National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year  
11      2003, have each voted to increase the authorizations  
12      for military end strengths above the level requested  
13      by the President in his defense budget for fiscal year  
14      2003.

15          (11) Recent press reports indicate that the Sec-  
16      retary of Defense has under consideration substan-  
17      tial reductions in military end strengths below the  
18      levels proposed to be authorized in the House and  
19      Senate versions of the National Defense Authoriza-  
20      tion Act for Fiscal Year 2003.

21      **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

22          In light of the findings in section 1, it is the sense  
23      of Congress that—

24          (1) the increases in end-strength authorizations  
25      for the Armed Forces for fiscal year 2003 that are



1 recommended by the Senate and House of Rep-  
2 resentatives in their respective versions of the Na-  
3 tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year  
4 2003 are wholly appropriate and justified by the in-  
5 creased missions and tempo of operations associated  
6 with prosecution of the war against terrorism;

7 (2) the President and Secretary of Defense  
8 should not reduce, or seek to reduce, the number of  
9 members of the Armed Forces so long as the Nation  
10 is at war against terrorism; and

11 (3) the President should support the increase in  
12 end-strengths for the Armed Forces recommended  
13 by the Senate and House of Representatives for fis-  
14 cal year 2003 due to the exigencies of the war  
15 against terrorism.

